(c) The increase in trade deficit during the current year is maily on account of high price of crude oil and high growth of import of capital goods and raw-materials/intermediate products required to sustain the unprecedented growth in the Manufacturing Sector. The Government is watchful of the situation but does not propose to artificially restrict imports to contain trade deficit as this may have an adverse impact on inflation.

Anti-dumping duty on steel

†1669. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether leading steel industrialists have requested Government to impose anti-dumping duty on the lines of America, to prevent the misuse by International steel companies;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As of now, no application has been filed by the domestic steel industry for initiation of anti-dumping investigation.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Import and export of agricultural products by MMTC

†1670. SHRI BANWARI LAL KANCHHAL: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Mineral and Metal Trading Corporation of India Ltd. (MMTC Ltd.) has formulated any scheme for import and export of agricultural products and for agriculture sector; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) and (b) MMTC has been regularly importing and exporting agricultural products for the last several years. The major areas of operation of MMTC in the agricultural sector are pulses, sugar, edible oil and wheat. MMTC

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

undertakes import/export of these products from time-to-time depending upon the market opportunities and commercial viability either directly or for associates. The value of trade done by MMTC Ltd. in agricultural commodities during the years 2004-05, 2005-06 and 2006-07 (upto Feb.' 07) was Rs. 389.35 crores, Rs. 272.50 crores and Rs. 410.20 crores (Prov.) respectively.

MMTC is one of the canalising egencies nominated by the Government of India for import of urea, DAP and MOP to meet domestic requirements of the agriculture sector.

Acquisition of agricultural land for SEZ in Raigad

1671. KUMARI NIRMALA DESHPANDE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the status of agricultural land being acquired for SEZ in the Raigad district of Maharashtra;

(b) whether the land given to top defence personnel for gallentry is also being acquired; and

(c) whether there is a proposal to give alternate land to the agriculturists, in Dhulia district of Maharashtra?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per the information made available by the Government of Maharashtra based on a Socio Economic Survey, the land under acquisition for Special Economic Zone (SEZ) in Raigad District is non-irrigated single crop saline land.

(b) and (c) One representative in this regard has been received. However, the Land is a State subject. Land is acquired by the State Governments, under the provisions of the Land Acquisition Act, 1894, for various purposes including SEZs. Each State has its own relief and rehabilitation policy which applies to all land acquisitions by the concerned State.